

REMARKS

Claims 8, 10-17, 19-34, and 38-42, and 45-46 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-7, 9, 18, 25-37, 43, 44, and 47-50 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled claims 1-7, 9, 18, 25-37, 43, 44, and 47-50 in a continuation application.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 7 as being anticipated by Hamada et al.

Claims 1, 2, and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada et al. (US-A-6,373,291). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 2, and 7.

B. Rejections of Claims 3-6 as being Obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hamada et al. (US-A-6,373,291). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 3-6.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all the present rejections. Also, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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